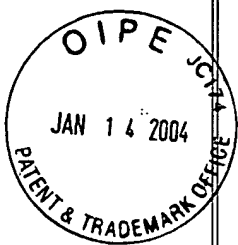


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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 04329.2532

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of.:
Kimio MISEKI
Serial No.: 09/803,998 ✓
Filed: March 13, 2001
For: SPEECH ENCODING METHOD,
SPEECH DECODING METHOD
AND ELECTRONIC APPARATUS

) Confirmation No.: 9308
)
)
) Group Art Unit: 2655
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)
) Examiner: Susan McFadden
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BOX ISSUE FEE
Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure is being filed with a certification as specified under § 1.97(e), before the issuance of a final action or a Notice of Allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The documents listed in this Information Disclosure Statement were first cited in a communication from the European Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the mailing date of that communication as required under § 1.97(e).

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP
1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

A copy of a communication from the European Patent Office dated December 3, 2003, together with the accompanying European Search Report is enclosed.

Copies of the listed documents are attached.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitutes "prior art." If the Examiner applies the listed documents as prior art against any claims in the application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: 1/14/04

By: 

Richard V. Burgujian
Reg. No. 31,744

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com